



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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### **KING MACKEREL TRIP LIMIT INCREASED TO 75 FISH PER DAY FOR COMMERCIAL HOOK-AND-LINE VESSELS FISHING IN THE FLORIDA EAST COAST SUBZONE**

The daily vessel trip limit is increased to 75 fish beginning 12:01 a.m., February 1, 2004, for commercial hook-and-line vessels fishing for Gulf group king mackerel in the Florida east coast subzone. The 75-fish daily trip limit will remain in effect until March 31, 2004, unless the subzone's quota is reached and the fishery is closed prior to that date. If the 1,040,625-pound quota is harvested during February or March 2004, the subzone will be closed and the daily trip limit reduced to zero king mackerel until the 2003/2004 season ends on March 31, 2004. Such a closure would be effective upon filing the notification with the Office of the Federal Register.

In compliance with the federal regulations for Gulf group king mackerel, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) increased the trip limit from 50 to 75 king mackerel per day after determining that less than 75 percent (or 478,469 pounds) of the 1,040,625-pound quota would be harvested for this fishery segment before February 1, 2004. The 75-fish trip limit is a daily landing/possession limit that applies to commercial vessels fishing for king

mackerel in the Florida east coast subzone. From November 1 through March 31, the Florida east coast subzone of the Gulf group king mackerel is that part of the eastern zone north of 25° 20.4' N. lat. (a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida, boundary). From April 1 through October 31, the Atlantic group king mackerel occurs in this area. During the latter period, the boundary separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel is shifted from the east coast to the west coast of Florida to 25° 48' N. lat. (a line directly west from the Monroe/Collier County, Florida, boundary). Please see figures below.

A vessel fishing under the commercial trip limits and quotas for king mackerel must possess on board a valid federal commercial vessel permit for king mackerel. Quotas, trip limits (see reverse side of this bulletin), and permits implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic are necessary to protect and rebuild the Gulf group king mackerel resource.

### **GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: SEASONAL BOUNDARIES OF FLORIDA SUBZONES**

See page for maps.

# GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: STATUS OF QUOTAS AND DAILY TRIP/LANDING LIMITS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FOR THE 2003/2004 FISHING YEAR

ZONE/SUBZONE	QUOTA (POUNDS, lb)	DAILY VESSEL TRIP LIMITS	DURATION OF TRIP LIMITS			STATUS	
						BEGINNING	CURRENT
EASTERN ZONE (Florida)	2,250,000						
East Coast Subzone <sup>1</sup>	1,040,625	50 Fish 75 Fish <sup>2</sup>	Nov 1, 2003 Feb 1, 2004	until until	780,469 lb 1,040,625 lb	Opened: Nov 1, 2003	Open: 75 fish/day
West Coast Subzones	1,209,375						
<u>Northern</u>							
Hook and Line	168,750	1,250 lb 500 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 2003 Oct 30, 2003 Nov 13, 2003	until until until	126,563 lb Nov 13, 2003 Jul 1, 2004	Opened: Jul 1, 2003	<b>Closed: Nov 13, 2003</b>
<u>Southern</u>							
Hook and Line	520,312	1,250 lb 500 lb	Jul 1, 2003 390,234 lb	until until	390,234 lb 520,312 lb	Opened: Jul 1, 2003	Open: 1250 lb/day
Gillnet	520,312	25,000 lb 0 lb	Jan 20, 2004 520,312 lb	until until	520,312 lb Jan 18, 2005	Opened: Jan 20, 2004	Open: 25,000 lb/day
WESTERN ZONE (Texas - Alabama)	1,010,000	3,000 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 2003 Sep 24, 2003	until until	1,010,000 lb Jul 1, 2004	Opened: Jul 1, 2003	<b>Closed: Sep 24, 2003</b>
Hook and Line							

<sup>1</sup> The Florida east coast subzone, located between the Flagler/Volusia and Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries, exists only from November 1 through March 31, when the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel extends into that area. From April 1 through October 31, king mackerel landed in that area belong to the Atlantic migratory group.

<sup>2</sup> Trip limit would increase from 50 to 75 fish/day on February 1, 2004, if less than 75 percent or 780,469 pounds of the Florida east coast subzone quota is harvested prior to February 1, 2004.

To report violations of commercial trip limits or closures, contact NOAA Fisheries Law Enforcement Division at 727/570-5344 or 1-800/853-1964. NOAA Fisheries, is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Additional information on southeastern fisheries may be found on the Web sites of the Gulf of Mexico (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>) or South Atlantic (<http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov>) Fishery Management Council; they may be contacted by e-mail at [gulf.council@noaa.gov](mailto:gulf.council@noaa.gov), or [safmc@noaa.gov](mailto:safmc@noaa.gov) respectively.